

# EPA reports progress

## Dead Creek evaluation stand at 80 percent done

By Wade Alberty  
Staff writer

Members of the United States Environmental Protection Agency met with area residents to discuss progress on cleanup projects in the Cahokia and Sauget areas.

The meeting was held at Sauget Village Hall for the first time, while previous

### CAHOKIA

updates had been held in conjunction with the Cahokia Mayor's Meeting.

"We wanted to give updates of the different activities in which the EPA is involved in the Sauget area," said Kevin Turner, on-site coordinator for the EPA. "This time, we decided we wanted to do our own meeting and not take up the Cahokia Mayor's Meeting time."

Leo Rosales of the EPA office of public affairs introduced representatives from the EPA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Solutia Inc. and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Mike McAteer, remedial project manager for the EPA, gave an overview of the areas being worked on, and he gave a breakdown of the cleanup process.

McAteer said that more than 80 percent of the sampling of Dead Creek has been completed, and should be finished during the spring.

Once sampling is done and analyzed, an ecological risk assessment will be conducted,

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On-site coordinator for EPA

along with a human health risk assessment.

An engineering evaluation, including a cost analysis is due by March 1, 2001, and a feasibility study is to be completed by April 1, 2001, said McAteer.

Solutia Inc. is responsible for all the work that is being conducted.

Solutia was the only of 24 suspected companies to step forward and take responsibility for the cleanup.

Solutia is paying for the entire cleanup. No government money is being used, McAteer said.

Turner spoke about the area known as Site Q, a former dump location north of Cargill Road.

Site Q comprises approximately 25 acres used for dumping as early as the 1930s, Turner said.

To date 2,621 barrels containing various contaminants have been removed from the site, Turner said.

The barrels were discovered when they were turned up by the flood of 1993.

Along with the barrels, more than 8,000 tons of contaminated soil has been removed from the site and shipped via rail to a disposal site in Oklahoma, Turner said.

More than 9000 tons of soil have been stockpiled and are awaiting analysis, and most likely will be transported to the Oklahoma disposal site as well, he said.

The barrels have been found anywhere from on the surface to seven feet below, Turner said.

The removal project started in October of 1999, and should be complete in April or May, he said.

Site Q includes more than 93 acres, but only 25 acres were deemed in need of immediate attention by the EPA.

Turner said the remaining 68 acres will be checked later for contaminants, but he suspects they will find more barrels.

"We have aerial photos back to 1960 that show disposal activity," he said.

Turner said Solutia is currently in the process of replacing culverts in Dead Creek at Cargill Road and an area where the creek goes under the railroad tracks about 150 yards from the Cargill Road culvert.

Other culvert work will be performed, Turner said.

Culvert work is taking place downstream and will be moving upstream.

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## Regional news

# progress vs. contaminants

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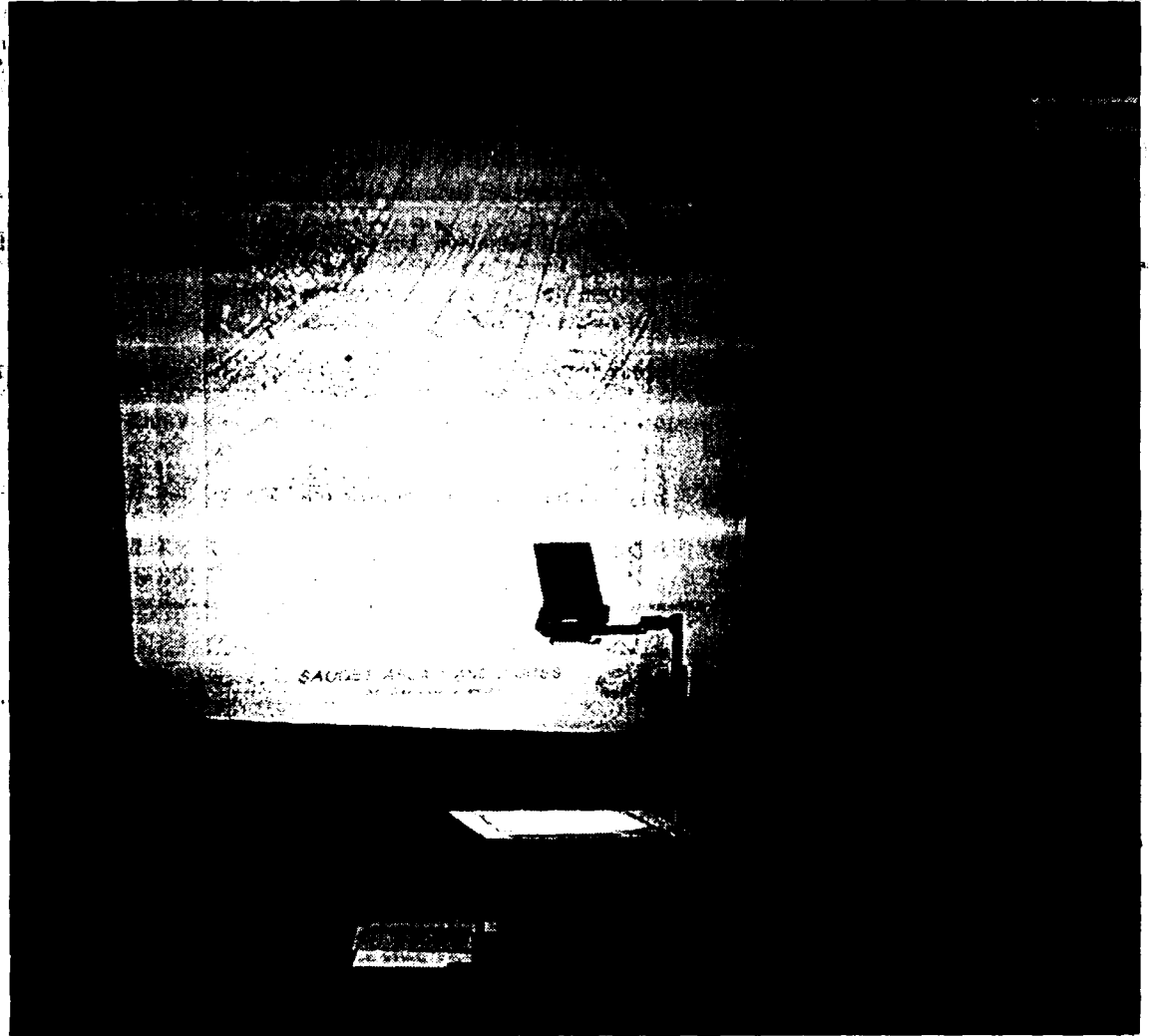
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Wade Alberty photo

**EPA's Mike McAteer uses an overhead projector to show contaminated areas that are being cleaned up.**

verts should start in April and  
last for three months, said  
Turner.

The primary work on Dead  
Creek will be sediment  
removal.

Four areas known as site B,  
C, D and E will be the focus of  
sediment removal.

Site B is between Queeny  
Avenue and Judith Lane.

Site C is between Judith  
lane and Edward Street.

Site D is between Edward  
Street and Jerome Lane.

Site E is between Jerome  
Lane and Camp Jackson Road.

The proposed method on  
handling the removed sediment  
is to build a Toxic Substance  
Control Act Cell.

The TSCA cell would be  
used to contain the contami-

nated soil on a permanent  
basis.

The proposed cell would  
cover five acres and be 25 feet  
high.

None of the cell would be  
underground, Turner said.

The walls, floor and ceiling  
of the cell would consist of  
various layers consisting of  
such materials as gravel,  
sand, highly compacted clay,  
geotextile fabric and polyethyl-  
ene plastic.

"It (the TSCA cell) is a  
highly designed containment  
cell that meets, and in some  
cases exceeds, standards for a  
containment cell," said  
McAteer.

The location of the TSCA  
cell would be on land currently  
owned by Solutia straddling

the boarder between Cahokia  
and Sauget.

"Though the TSCA cell is  
still only under consideration,  
we've moved beyond the con-  
cept phase, and are more into  
planning," Turner said.

Turner said he was pleased  
with the attendance and partic-  
ipation at the meeting.

"We had some good ques-  
tions, and had people that  
obviously grasps the concepts.  
That is why they had such  
good questions," he said.

Turner said it would proba-  
bly be a couple of months  
before the EPA has another  
public meeting.

"We are moving into the  
planning phases where we  
won't have as visible a pres-  
ence," he said.